

Mann was a longtime member of the Order of Daedalians, where he worked to enroll high school youth in ROTC programs, and sponsored an annual scholarship for ROTC students. He was also served as past Flight Captain of Shangri-La Flight and was an avid and passionate member of this aviation group.

To some, Colonel Mann will be remembered as a patriot and decorated aviator; to others, he will be remembered as a civic leader and tireless advocate for members of our Armed Forces; to his family and friends he will always be remembered as a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Colonel Bill Mann. My wife Vicki and I send our prayers and deepest condolences to his wife, Marge; daughters, Cindy and Karen; grandchildren, Shannon, John, and William; and the entire Mann family.

IN HONOR OF MARILYN HUMMEL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Marilyn Hummel who passed away peacefully in accompaniment of her family on Dec. 31, 2013. Marilyn was an old friend and a champion for environmental and social justice issues.

Marilyn was strong and unwavering in her beliefs and worked tirelessly to generously give back to her community. Her services are almost too extensive to list. She served as President of the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County; officer in the Rural Bonny Doon Association; office manager and Executive Committee member of the Santa Cruz Group of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club. She was a member of the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission; and member and Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Santa Cruz County Housing Authority. She was a joyous presence wherever she worked and touched the lives of all those in her wake.

One of Marilyn's crowning achievements was saving an isolated and fragile outcropping of the Santa Cruz Hills along with their rare and endangered species of animals.

She is survived by her husband Don and their four children: Nancy, Bill, Tom, and Chris. My heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to this family.

Mr. Speaker, Marilyn's lifetime of community service stemmed from a place of love and compassion and her vibrant energy will truly be missed.

RECOGNIZING VICTORIA HURLEY
AS THE 2014 OKALOOSA COUNTY,
FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE
YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 21, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Victoria Hurley as the 2014 Okaloosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year.

I am proud to recognize her accomplishments as an outstanding educator and the instrumental role she has played in the lives of her students.

Ms. Hurley earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Troy University. A product of the Okaloosa County, Florida school system, Ms. Hurley continues to give back to her community. Ms. Hurley has educated students at Northwood Elementary and Walker Elementary, both located in Crestview, Florida, and has served as a literacy coach. She currently teaches Intensive Reading at her alma mater, Baker School in Baker, Florida. Ms. Hurley is certified in Next Generation Content Area Reading—Professional Development (NGCAR-PD) and K-12 Reading Endorsement. She gives her colleagues and the teachers who encouraged, challenged and mentored her credit for her successful career, but it is mainly because of her passion and commitment to excellence that Ms. Hurley inspires her students to maintain a fervent interest in reading and succeed.

For over fifteen dedicated years, Ms. Hurley has taught a variety of classes with students ranging from the third to tenth grades and has participated in community and statewide projects. Among her accolades are Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year and the Disney Environmental Regional award. Famed Librarian John Cotton Dana once said, "Who dares to teach must never cease to learn." Ms. Hurley truly believes that to be an effective teacher is to be a lifelong learner, and in her spare time, she ensures that she never becomes complacent in her own professional development. Always seeking improvement, Ms. Hurley has instructed 216 hours of professional development and has earned a supplementary 438 hours of in-service credit. In addition to her teaching schedule and time spent on professional development, her service to Okaloosa County is demonstrated by her presence on many school committees and assistance in writing grants.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Hurley as the 2014 Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year. Teachers like Ms. Hurley strive to lead their students down a path of personal and academic success, and Okaloosa County is fortunate to have her as part of its community. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Victoria Hurley, and we wish her all the best.

PATRICIA CLARK BOSTON AIR
ROUTE TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the rule for the debt ceiling increase.

You may recall that two years ago the Nation's credit rating was downgraded for the first time ever because of politicized negotiations and the initial failure to reach an agreement—and now we risk that and more because an odd lot of members in this body and one, perhaps two in our bicameral twin, wish on the American people out of some misguided principle.

Refusing to raise the debt ceiling poses a cataclysmic danger to the stability of our markets and the economic security of our middle class and complete devastation for the poor.

I agree with President Obama that the full faith and credit of the United States is non-negotiable. The United States has been the worldwide standard bearer for many years and many other nations have been comfortable holding our paper but now our preeminent financial status is in jeopardy.

As former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke stated last year: "A government shutdown, and perhaps even more so a failure to raise the debt limit, could have very serious consequences for the financial markets and for the economy . . ."

The Federal Government's statutory debt limit currently stands at a sum near \$16.699 trillion; and it needs to be increased.

I ask what we tell the people of China and Japan, who each own over one trillion in U.S. treasury securities. Or Singapore which owns \$80 billion.

We have enjoyed the status for many years now of hearing the phrase: "the flight to Treasuries," from financiers and investment analysts from around the world. This is something we should not and cannot take for granted.

And I ask what about the Seniors and Baby Boomers who literally count on the Social Security Trust Fund for their retirement—because while our international image and reputation are incredibly important, Mr. Speaker, the largest single holder of Treasury Securities is the Trust Fund.

The American people are not just owed government bonds—this Congress—and you—owe them peace of mind let us vote on the debt limit—post haste.

Here are some of those consequences if we do not raise the debt ceiling and pay our nation's bills:

A debt limit increase simply allows Treasury to pay the bills for spending Congress has already approved and does not add one cent to the debt.

House Democrats agree with President Obama that the full faith and credit of the United States is non-negotiable.

HIGHER MORTGAGE COSTS

If a default were to increase mortgage interest rate spreads by as much as they did when Republicans threatened default in 2011—0.7 percentage points—the average homebuyer will pay an extra \$100 a month. [Treasury Department]

This would cost 582,829 Texas residents took out a home mortgage or refinanced their existing mortgage last year \$36,000 over the life of a typical 30 year home loan.

LOST RETIREMENT SAVINGS

American workers retirement accounts—pension funds, 401(k) plans, and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)—are at risk with a government default as much of them are invested in the stock market.

Private pension balances were 26 percent lower than they would have been if House Republicans had not threatened to default in July 2011. [The American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries]

If a default caused retirement assets to shrink that much again, it will drop the average American's 401(k) by \$15,000 and the average IRA by almost \$23,000.

And the cost would be worse for workers' nearing retirement—dropping an average